STATEMENT RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE JULY 9, 2015 CONTACT: REPRESENTATIVE JOHN MURTHA (608) 266-7683

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Rep. Murtha: Statement on Passage of the 2015-2016 Biennial Budget

Madison – Representative John Murtha (R-Baldwin) released the following statement after the passage of Senate Bill 21, the 2015-2016 Biennial Budget.

"Yesterday, my colleagues and I passed a budget that is good for our students, our vulnerable population, and our tax payers. Through this budget, Legislative Republicans showed that K-12 education is a top priority. Not only did we restore public school funding, but we actually increased it by \$200 million. In total, this budget spends \$840 million more on K-12 education than the 2013-2014 budget.

"Additionally, we saved medical assistance programs for our most vulnerable population. After we heard from the public regarding changes to FamilyCare, IRIS, and Aging and Disability Resources Centers (ADRCs), the legislature took the public's concern to heart and preserved those programs in order to allow individuals to be in charge of their own health care. We also saved SeniorCare, which will ensure that seniors can get the prescription drugs they need at an affordable price.

"Finally, this budget has no new income tax, no new sales tax, and it holds the line on property taxes. We believe it's important for money to be in the pockets of citizens rather than in the pockets of the government. In addition, we also reduced transportation bonding to its lowest level in decades.

"Legislative Republicans spent months pouring over the details of the budget. I believe that we ended up with a final product that benefits everyone in Wisconsin, from our students to our vulnerable population to our taxpayers and more."